

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 23, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 16, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 8, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 6, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 659

Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Achadjian)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Fox~~ Fox, Gatto, and Wilk)
(Coauthor: Senator Wyland)

February 21, 2013

An act to amend Section 51226.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 659, as amended, Nazarian. Pupil instruction: Armenian Genocide.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to incorporate materials relating to civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources, consistent with the subject frameworks on history and social science and other requirements. Under existing law, the Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor, rescuer, liberator, and witness testimony into the teaching of human rights, genocide, and the Holocaust. Existing law establishes the Instructional Quality

Commission and requires the commission to, among other things, recommend curriculum frameworks to the State Board of Education.

This bill would encourage the department to incorporate materials related to the Armenian Genocide into those publications, and would require the commission to consider the Armenian Genocide for inclusion in the history-social science curriculum framework when the history-social science framework is revised as required by law. The bill would also specify that the Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor, rescuer, liberator, and witness oral testimony into the teaching of human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides. The bill would define oral testimony to mean firsthand accounts of significant historical events presented in a specified format.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:

3 51226.3. (a) (1) The department shall incorporate into
4 publications that provide examples of curriculum resources for
5 teacher use those materials developed by publishers of nonfiction,
6 trade books, and primary sources, or other public or private
7 organizations, that are age-appropriate and consistent with the
8 subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with
9 civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the
10 Holocaust.

11 (2) The Legislature encourages the department to incorporate
12 into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources
13 for teacher use those materials developed by publishers of
14 nonfiction, trade books, and primary sources, or other public or
15 private organizations, that are age-appropriate and consistent with
16 the subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with
17 the Armenian Genocide.

18 (b) (1) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor,
19 rescuer, liberator, and witness oral testimony into the teaching of
20 human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including, but not
21 limited to, the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan
22 genocides.

1 (2) As used in this subdivision, “oral testimony” means the
2 firsthand accounts of significant historical events presented in a
3 format that includes, but is not limited to, in-person testimony,
4 video, or a multimedia option, such as a DVD or *an* online video.

5 (c) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
6 development activities to provide teachers with content background
7 and resources to assist in teaching about civil rights, human rights
8 violations, genocide, slavery, the Holocaust, and the Armenian
9 Genocide.

10 (d) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
11 development activities to provide teachers with content background
12 and resources to assist in teaching about the Great Irish Famine of
13 1845–50.

14 (e) When the history-social science curriculum framework is
15 revised as required by law, the Instructional Quality Commission
16 shall consider including the Great Irish Famine of 1845–50 and
17 the Armenian Genocide in the history-social science curriculum
18 framework.

19 (f) The Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide
20 adopted by the state board, pursuant to Section 51226, shall be
21 made available to schools in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, as soon as
22 funding is available for this purpose. In addition, the department
23 shall make the curriculum available on its Internet Web site.